

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: November 09, 2010
Received: November 08, 2010
Status: Posted
Posted: November 08, 2010
Tracking No. 80b849a6
Comments Due: November 08, 2010
Submission Type: Web

Docket: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736
Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001
Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0292
Comment submitted by Jacquelyn Bonomo, Executive Director and Vice President, Audubon Maryland-DC

Submitter Information

Submitter's Representative: Jacquelyn Bonomo
Organization: Audubon Maryland-DC

General Comment

This comment indicates the strong support of Audubon Maryland-DC for the immediate promulgation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Audubon Maryland-DC is one of 21 state programs of the National Audubon Society, with over 7,000 individual members, and 4,800 chapter members state-wide. These comments are presented on their behalf.

Audubon Maryland-DC's mission is to conserve, restore, and sustain the natural ecosystems of Maryland and the District of Columbia, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity. The ongoing decline of water quality in Chesapeake Bay continues to exact adverse impacts on wildlife and human communities dependent on healthy ecosystems for survival and well-being.

The US Geological Survey's Findings of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Chesapeake Bay Program's Chesapeake 2000 Goal for Living Resources <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1316/html/circ1316chap1.html#tableliving> is one of many documents that indicate the adverse impacts the Bay's water quality is exacting on birds and other wildlife. Of the 38 Important Bird Area's (IBA) that Audubon has designated for Maryland, 33 are in the Bay watershed. Land use compatible with wildlife habitat protection in these IBA's is the same land use that will accrue positive impacts to improving Bay water quality, assuming that good information, political will and accountability is in place to facilitate these decisions. The proposed TMDL is an essential enhancement to accountability that has been absent in the past. It is imperative to promulgate the TMDL as a key tool necessary to effectively restore and protect the Bay, and an attempt to mitigate failed measures, tools and options from the past.

We further incorporate the comments of the Choose Clean Water coalition, of which we are a member.

Attachments

EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0292.1: Comment attachment submitted by Jacquelyn Bonomo,
Executive Director and Vice President, Audubon Maryland-DC